

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We believe that God is healing and restoring the world,
and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE

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The Holy Eucharist - Rite II

WELCOME to St. Paul's! We are grateful for your prayers and presence on this day in the life of the parish community. We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. The majority of the liturgy is printed in the bulletin; however, you will find the hymns in the Blue 1982 Hymnals in the back of the pews. Hymns that start with "S" are found at the beginning of the hymnal.

Our worship service takes place here and online; it is also being recorded for later viewing. Feel free to greet one another as is your custom as you gather. When we are ready to start, our Angels Aloft will sound an opening bell. This signals those gathered that our service is now being recorded. Please maintain quiet and turn your attention to our opening activities at this time.

Opening Bell

Welcome

Celebrant

Announcements

Member of Vestry

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement

Celebrant

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples who have reserve treaty rights to this land, especially the Skagit Tribe who has stewarded this land throughout the generations. We thank these caretakers of this land, who have lived, and continue to live, here since time immemorial.

Mission Statement

1 *Presider and People:*

We believe that God is healing and restoring the world, and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.

Please stand as able.

Presider: Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Presider and People:

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Gradual

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn 89

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Presider: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 2:1-20.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

Please stand as able.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Everliving God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

Here other intercessions may be offered, silently or aloud.

Presider adds a concluding collect.

The Peace | La Paz

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you. | La paz del Señor sea siempre con ustedes.

People: And also with you. | **Y con tu espíritu.**

If you are worshiping with us virtually, use the chat function to “say” peace to your fellow parishioners, or text/email someone with whom you would like to share the peace of Christ.

Celebrations and Thanksgiving of Life

Your gifts are much appreciated.

If you are joining this live stream, you may mail your offering/pledge to 415 S. 18th Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98274. You can also make payments online at www.stpaulsmv.org

Offertory Anthem

In The Bleak Midwinter

by St. Paul's Choir

Doxology

Sung together to the tune of “All Creatures of Our God and King”.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

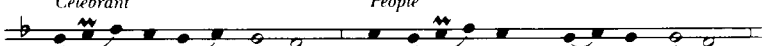

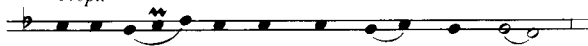
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to come forward for communion or blessing. Gluten free wafers are available. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Celebrant	People
	
<p>The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.</p>	
Celebrant	People
	
<p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p>	
Celebrant	
	
<p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p>	
People	
	
<p>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</p>	

Presider: It is truly right to glorify you, O God, our Refuge and Strength, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Presider and People:

	
<p>San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore you! My</p>	



Presider: We acclaim you, Holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, given the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might dwell as faithful companions with all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Gracious God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom, to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for the One who died and rose for us, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; offered thanks and gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Most Blessed One, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People:

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, the Rock of our Salvation.**

We pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, O God, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember our Bishops and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have no shelter this night, all who have no food, all who suffer and hurt this night, all who are alone. May they know the healing warmth of your love. Remember all who serve this night on behalf of others. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Eternal God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and forever.
AMEN.

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
 hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
 sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom the pow - er,
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Song:

Se - ñor y Je-su - cris - to, Hi - jo del Dios vi - vo. Se - ñor y Je-su - cris - to, Hi -
 Lord Je-sus Christ, Son of the li - ving God, Lord Je-sus Christ, Son
 jo del Dios vi - vo. O - ten mi - se - ri - cor - dia de no - so - tros pe - ca - do - res. O -
 of the li - ving God; O have mer - cy on us sin - ners, O
 ten mi - se - ri - cor - ida de no - so - tros pe - ca - do - res.
 have mer - cy on us sin - ners.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated.

Those present, are invited to receive Holy Communion.

*Those with us online, during these next moments of meditation,
wherever you are, receive God's gifts to you. We share spiritual communion today.*

Communion

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymn 111

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God,
You have made us one in the body of Christ,
And nourished us at your table with holy food and drink.
Now send us forth to be your people in the world.
Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil,
And to proclaim in all we say and do
Your Good News in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Christmas Season Blessing

God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of
the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of
the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, and Life-giver,
be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Closing

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Hymn 83

Dismissal

The Celebrant dismisses them with these words:

Presider: Joy to the World! Go in God's Peace! Alleluia.
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Thank you for blessing us with your companionship as we celebrate the coming of Christ in the holy nativity.

Our worship is more complete for your participation!

The Christmas tree in the Sanctuary is given by the Schuh Family in memory of Susan Schuh.

The Halls of St. Paul's were decked in beautiful wreaths for Christmas by:

Juana y Delfino

Catalina Mora por honor a Joel R

Teresa Ramirez por Familia Ramirez

Oliver y Micaela (familia Ramos) en honor de Jose Ramos y Carmen y Victor y Sixto

La Familia Paz por honor a Elena Perez

Familia Sanchez por salud de Bonifacio Lucas

Michael and Carol Boss in honor of family and friends

Gary and Leigh Giovane

Maggie Bird for Laura May Bird

Darcy Wells

Grace

Craig Fraser

Carol Treston for the memory of Hazel Pilkington

Dennis and Mary Ann Taylor

Salazar Family para Coronas

John Burnham

Barbara Cheyney

Don and Arlene Zimmerman

Paul and Judy Thompson

McCabe family in memory of Lloyd and Jerry Cooley

Color me:



St. Paul's Prayer Team prays daily for those on the prayer list.
Please email Penny Worrell at penny.worrell@gmail.com.

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Announcements for December 24, 2023

Welcome to our guests: We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today! Please put your name and contact information in our guest book so that we may get to know you better.

Mark your calendars now:

Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, January 21, 2024 after the 9:30 a.m.

Year End Gifts:

Your Vestry invites you to consider including St. Paul's in your year-end charitable giving. Let's end 2023 with strong witness to gratitude for God's gifts through this community! You may place a gift in the offering plate or mail one to the parish office.

Like what you see here?

Join us any Sunday. Please know that Easter and Pentecost, two of our high Holy Days, are on March 31 and May 19 respectively in 2024. Come and see!

Welcome to Saint Paul's!

We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. The prayer book gives directions as to when we stand, sit, or occasionally kneel; these are guidelines. What is more important is that you bring your complete self to worship God.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. We use real wine in the cup. If you wish to receive only a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest approaches. If you do not want to drink from the chalice, please cross your arms across your chest. Non-gluten bread is also available. Please inform us if this is your preference. We ask that those worshipping with us online reverently pray and meditate on God's grace and blessing whenever you observe the Eucharist being taken.



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If you would like to receive our e-news, please send a message to stpaulmv@comcast.net.